



Quantifying the influence of climate on human conflict

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Abstract:

A rapidly growing body of research examines whether human conflict can be affected by climatic changes. Drawing from archaeology, criminology, economics, geography, history, political science, and psychology, we assemble and analyze the 60 most rigorous quantitative studies and document, for the first time, a striking convergence of results. We find strong causal evidence linking climatic events to human conflict across a range of spatial and temporal scales and across all major regions of the world. The magnitude of climate's influence is substantial: for each one standard deviation (1sigma) change in climate toward warmer temperatures or more extreme rainfall, median estimates indicate that the frequency of interpersonal violence rises 4% and the frequency of intergroup conflict rises 14%. Because locations throughout the inhabited world are expected to warm 2sigma to 4sigma by 2050, amplified rates of human conflict could represent a large and critical impact of anthropogenic climate change.

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Resource Description

Climate Scenario :

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Other Climate Scenario

Other Climate Scenario: SRES A1B

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

El Nino Southern Oscillation, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Temperature

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Other Health Impact

Other Health Impact: interpersonal and intergroup violence

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction, Outcome Change Prediction

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review, Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Medium-Term (10-50 years)